

REMARKS

BACKGROUND

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges receipt of the reissued office action. Previously, the Applicant received an office action dated November 1, 2004. Upon examination of that office action, the Applicant noted that it did not address claims added by a preliminary amendment dated May 20, 2002. The Applicant subsequently contacted the Examiner via telephone to discuss the omission of the claims. The Examiner acknowledged the additional claims added by the preliminary amendment, and stated that he would withdraw the office action of November 1, 2004, and reissue it in order to address the additional claims. The Office Action (dated April 25, 2005) addresses those claims.

Before amendment via this paper, claims 1 and 3-42 were pending in the application (claim 2 canceled previously). The Office Action rejected claims 1, 14-16, and 34-36. The Office Action further objected to claims 3-13, 17-33, and 37-42 (allowable claims), as depending on a rejected base claim. The Office Action stated that the objected-to claims would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

AMENDMENT

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections of, and objections to, the claims, the Applicant with this paper cancels and amends the claims as indicated above without prejudice and seeks to pursue the allowable (objected to) claims in this application. More specifically, the Applicant cancels without prejudice claims 1, 17, and 37 (claim 2 canceled previously), and amend claims 3 (to add the limitations of claim 1), 14 (to add the limitations of claim 17), 18, 34 (to add the limitations of claim 37), and 38.

The Applicant reserves the right, and presently intends, to pursue the rejected and/or other claims in follow-on and/or other applications and to present arguments with respect to such claims in such applications. Furthermore, the Applicant notes that it does not amend or reject the

claims because of the rejections over the cited references; rather, the Applicant merely seeks to facilitate compact prosecution and to expedite the issuance of a patent.

DRAWINGS

The Office Action also objected to the informal drawings because they were “drawn by hands.” The Office Action required corrected drawings sheets. In response, the Applicant submits with this paper replacement drawing sheets prepared by a draftsman. The Applicant submits that the replacement drawing sheets overcome the rejection. Furthermore, concurrently with this paper, the Applicant submits formal drawings. The Applicant respectfully requests entry and acceptance of those papers in the application.

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a prompt Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons detailed above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in the condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests a prompt Notice of Allowability.

Other than the fees for the petition for extension of time, the Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this submission. Should any other fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-.21 be required for any reason, however, the Commissioner may deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/SILA:099.

The Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate prompt issuance of a patent.

Respectfully submitted,



MAXIMILIAN R. PETERSON

Registration No. 46,469

Attorney for the Applicant

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN
1101 Capital of Texas Highway South
Building C, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
Voice: (512) 347-1611
Fax: (512) 347-1615